



# **DRAFT Environmental Assessment**

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for

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# **Harrison Lake Fishing Access Site Picnic Shelters**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
May 1999

PLEASE RETURN



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F&hLfa  
1999



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 So. 19th  
Bozeman, MT 59718

July 20, 1999

TO: Governor's Office, Julie Lapeyre, Room 204, State Capitol, POB 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801  
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, POB 201704, Helena, MT 59620  
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, POB 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Director's Office  
Parks Division  
Fisheries Division  
Design & Construction Bureau  
Legal Unit  
FWP Commissioners  
Dennis Flath

- MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202
- MT State Parks Association, POB 699, Billings, MT 59103
- MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620
- James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624
- Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624
- George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624
- Madison County Commissioners, POB 246, Virginia City, MT 59755
- Jerry DiMarco, POB 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
- Wildlife Federation, POB 1175, Helena, MT 59624
- Wayne Hurst, POB 728, Libby, MT 59923
- Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715
- Skyline Sportsman's Assoc., Box 173, Butte, MT 59701
- Anaconda Sportsman's Club, #2 Cherry, Anaconda, MT 59711
- Jefferson Valley Sportsman's Assoc., POB 663, Whitehall, MT 59759
- Prickly Pear Sportsman's Assoc., 1721 Virginia Dale St., Helena, MT 59601
- Jack Atcheson, State Land Coalition, 3210 Ottawa St., Butte, MT 59701

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

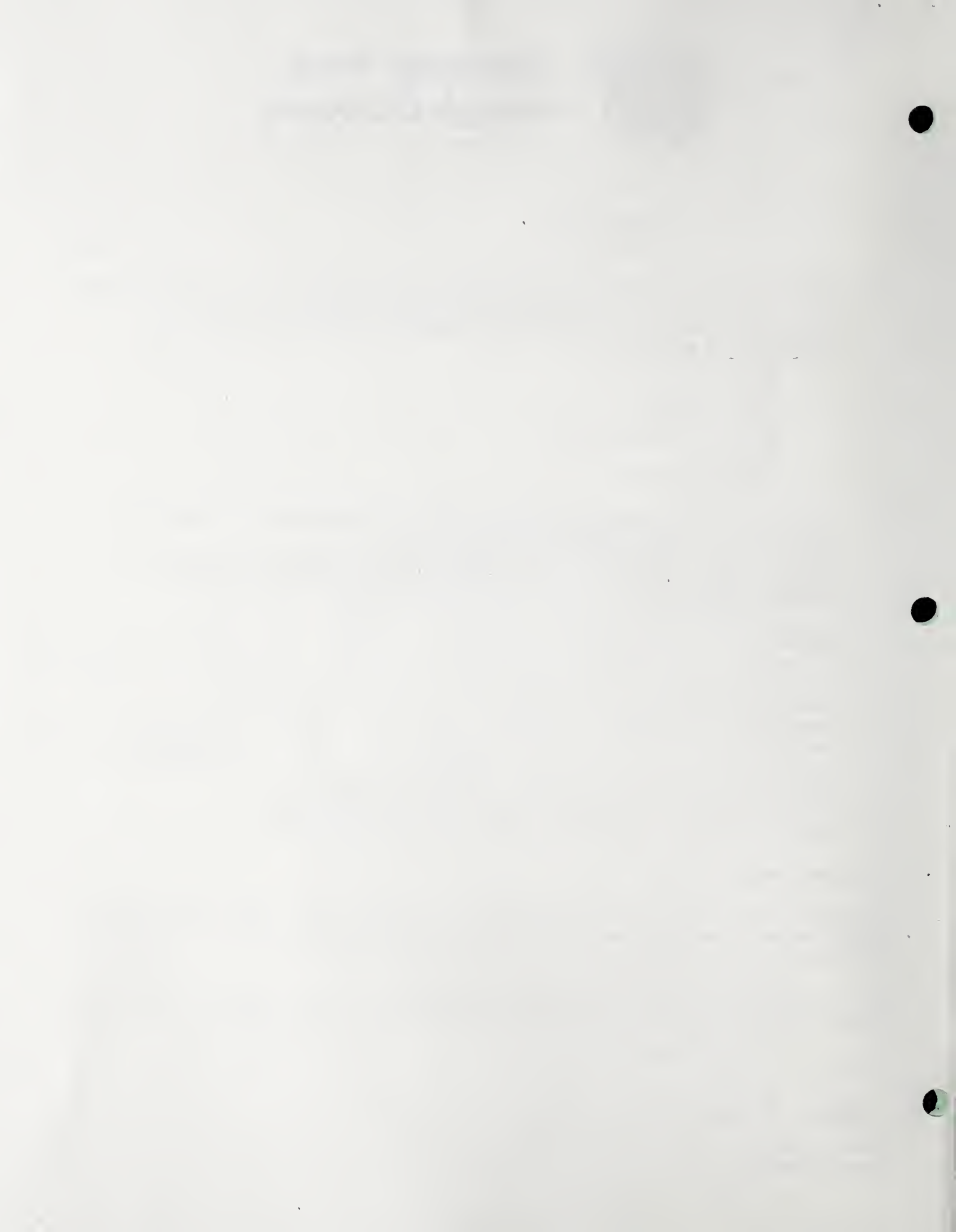
In June 1999, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposed a project to erect two picnic/shade shelters at our site on Harrison Reservoir Lake Fishing Access Site. We produced a Draft Environmental Assessment for this project, notified the public and distributed the document for a 30-day comment period.

Since no comments were received, FWP has decided to proceed with the Harrison Lake shade shelter project as proposed. This decision adopts the Draft Environmental Assessment as the final document.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Lewis  
Regional Supervisor

PLEASE RETURN



**FINAL DECISION NOTICE:  
HARRISON LAKE FISHING ACCESS SITE  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1400 South 19th Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
(406) 994-4042**

**PROPOSAL**

The proposed action is to construct two picnic/shade shelters. One would be erected in the vicinity of the new boat ramp and the other at the old ramp. These would be for day use only

**PUBLIC PROCESS AND COMMENT**

A public comment period began June 8, 1999 and ran through July 8, 1999. Legal notices were published twice in four different newspapers, there was one statewide press release, and one posting on The State of Montana's electronic bulletin board. There were no comments received during the comment period.

**DECISION**

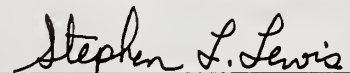
Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment and of applicable laws, regulations and policies, I have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

It is my decision to implement the proposed action (alternative 2), and to proceed with the construction of one shelter in the fall of 1999, and the other in 2001 as funds become available.

By notification in this decision notice, the draft EA is hereby made the final EA without any modifications or additions. The final EA may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1400 South 19th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59718.

Please direct any further requests or questions to:

Stephen L. Lewis, Region Three Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen L. Lewis

7/20/99  
Date





# DRAFT

## MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

### PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action** Install two picnic shelters at Harrison Lake Fishing Access Site.
2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action** The 1977 Montana Legislature enacted statute 87-1-605 which directs Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) to acquire, develop and operate a system of fishing accesses. The legislature established an earmarked funding account to ensure that this function would be accomplished.
3. **Name of Project** Harrison Lake Fishing Access Site Picnic Shelters
4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**  
FWP sponsored.
5. **If Applicable:**  
  
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date Fall 1999  
Estimated Completion Date Fall 1999  
Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 75%
6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**  
  
Harrison Lake Fishing Access Site (FAS) is 4 miles east of Harrison on Harrison Lake County Road, Madison County, T1S, R1W, S 1/2 Section 34 and NE 1/4 Section 3. Total site acreage = 39.95 acres.
7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

(a) Developed: residential ..... _ acres industrial ..... _ acres	(d) Floodplain ..... _ acres
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/ Recreation ..... <u>&lt;1</u> acres	(e) Productive: irrigated cropland ..... _ acres dry cropland ..... _ acres forestry ..... _ acres rangeland ..... _ acres other ..... _ acres
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas ..... <u>0.5</u> acres	

8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**

Please refer to Attachment 2.

9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

The proposed project will include construction of two picnic/shade shelters at Harrison Lake FAS. Both shelters will be designated as "day-use only" and one will be located at the old boat ramp area and the other at the new boat ramp area to the south east of the site. Both will be in areas that historically receive concentrated use. Very little shelter is available at this site due to its arid nature and lack of trees. One side of the shelter will be covered with 1" x 6" stiles to protect users from wind. The shelters will be at sites closest to the lake and open toward the lake for an aesthetically enjoyable experience. Shelter size will be large enough (14' x 18') to hold two or more picnic tables, allowing small group use, as well as use by individuals. The structures will be built with douglas fir finished with a semi-transparent stain to blend with the environment; roofing will be a tan/brown material. The shelters will be constructed by the FWP Region 3 maintenance staff.

Materials and funding are available to construct one shelter in the Fall, 1999. The second shelter will likely be constructed in 2000, or when funding and labor is available. One shelter will necessitate approximately 2-3 weeks construction time due to staff's ability to work only part-time while also meeting the needs of the Region's other 83 fishing access sites.

This site has received an average of 22,000 day-use visitors over the last three years. It is very popular for a variety of water-based activities in the summer and fishing year-round.



**10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

**(a) Permits:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
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none

**(b) Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
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FWP Operations & Maintenance Force Account	\$1800
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**(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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State Historic Preservation Office	Cultural Clearance
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**11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:**

FWP - Parks Division  
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)  
Montana Natural Heritage Program

# PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>☆</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>☆</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>☆</sup>	None	Minor <sup>☆</sup>	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				1a.
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			1b.
▶ c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				1c.
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other <u>N/A</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1a. Excavation for this project is minimal and no changes in soil stability or geologic substructure will occur.

1b. Soil will be displaced to create the footings and cement pad for the shelters. This soil will be wasted on site in low, eroded areas and as road fill material. The areas affected will be approximately 13' x 17' for each shelter.

1c. The level day use areas where the shelters will be located have historically been used for farming, grazing and many years of recreational use. No destruction, covering or modification to any unique geologic or physical features will occur from the proposed project.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>☆</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>☆</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>☆</sup>	None	Minor <sup>☆</sup>	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X		yes	2a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦ For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		N/A				
f. Other <u>N/A</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2a. Minor and temporary amounts of dust will occur during excavation for each shelter's footing and grading for surrounding landscaping. Removal of vegetation during installation will be limited to minimize dust.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>♦</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>♦</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>♦</sup>	None	Minor <sup>♦</sup>	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				3a.
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
♦♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated explain? (Also see 3c)		N/A				
m. ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		N/A				
n. Other: <u>      N/A      </u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3a. No discharge or alteration of surface water will occur.

- ▶ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ♦ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

4. <u>VEGETATION</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>☆</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>☆</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>☆</sup>	None	Minor <sup>☆</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		yes	4a.
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		yes	4e.
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		N/A				
g. Other: <u>    N/A    </u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4a. An approximately 13 foot by 17 foot area will be subject to excavation for each shelter. Plant species (grasses) will be eliminated within the excavated area. Areas disturbed during installation will be minimal and graded and seeded with native grasses upon project completion.

4e. Areas disturbed during excavation become prone to the establishment of noxious weeds. Native grass seed will be planted at the conclusion of the project to re-vegetate the site and provide competition to reduce the establishment of noxious weed species. In addition, ongoing weed control efforts (mechanical and chemical) will target disturbed areas until adequate ground cover has returned.

☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has or can not be evaluated.

▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

▶ 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>*</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>*</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>*</sup>	None	Minor <sup>*</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		N/A				
i. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		N/A				
j. Other: <u>N/A</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):  
 No impacts will occur to the fish or wildlife in the area of the proposed action.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>*</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>*</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>*</sup>	None	Minor <sup>*</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		yes	6a.
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: <u>N/A</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6a. Temporary increases in noise levels will occur during the excavation and building of the shelters due to use of heavy equipment and power tools to complete the project (i.e. backhoe, generator, saws, drills). Most work will occur Monday through Friday when visitation is usually lower, and work will be part-time, therefore limiting the noise during any given day.

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>☆</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>☆</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>☆</sup>	None	Minor <sup>☆</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicts with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: <u>N/A</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>☆</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>☆</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>☆</sup>	None	Minor <sup>☆</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			X		yes	8c.
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		N/A				
e. Other: <u>N/A</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8c. Hazards may exist during construction in the form of protruding bolts, nails, open pits and trenches, etc., however FWP will limit accessibility to the immediate shelter area and flag the area to identify the construction site.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?			X			9a.
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: <u>      N/A      </u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9a. Future day use at the FAS may be more concentrated at the picnic shelters due to their desired attributes of protection from the wind and sun. These proposed sites are currently popular because of their proximity to the boat ramps and the lake shore. The shelters may reduce degradation to the surrounding area because concentrated use will occur in one secured area rather than several more vulnerable areas.

- ◆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ◆ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES  Will the proposed action:	IMPACT <sup>☆</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>☆</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>☆</sup>	None	Minor <sup>☆</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: <u>maintenance</u>			X			10a.
b. Have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
▶ e. Define projected revenue sources						10e.
▶ f. Define projected maintenance costs.						10f.
g. Other: <u>N/A</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10a. Shelters will slightly increase the maintenance at the site. This site has an on-site care-taker during the summer months who regularly maintains the facilities and disposes of garbage. The shelters should only require applying wood stain every 5 years to prevent deterioration, and repair from wind, graffiti or vandalism which has been low at this FAS.

10e. Approximately \$1800 will be used from the FWP Fishing Access Site Program, Operations and Maintenance Force Account. This will include labor, materials, and equipment costs.

10f. Maintenance costs will be \$50-100 annually to cover routine repairs.

☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has or can not be evaluated.

▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

▶ 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			X		yes	11a.
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
▶ c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X (POSITIVE)			11c.
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		N/A				
e. Other: <u>      N/A      </u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

The landscape of this FAS is generally flat with some rises in terrain and little vegetation to limit views other than some willows and cottonwood trees near the shore line.

11a. These shelters are intended to be non-intrusive with a tan/brown roof and stained wood to blend with the natural colors of the area. They will be located on the edges of day use areas and will not be placed on the horizon line.

11c. It is anticipated that these shelters will make a positive impact on the recreational experience of visitors by providing relief from the sun and wind.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				12a.
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		N/A				
e. Other: <u>      N/A      </u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12a. Please refer to the project clearance letter from SHPO, Attachment 4 . The site was surveyed in 1979 at which time three isolated lithic flakes were found. It is very unlikely that this small project will impact significant cultural resources.

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE  Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT <sup>☆</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>☆</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>☆</sup>	None	Minor <sup>☆</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		N/A				
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		N/A				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



**2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

**Alternative 1. No Action**

This is a viable alternative, though not pro-active in providing adequate facilities for site visitors. Materials for the project have been available for over a year and if not used in the near future, risk failure and monetary loss. Other methods of shelter have been attempted at the site, with little success.

**Alternative 2. Proposed Action: Construct Two Picnic/Shade Shelters**

Providing sun and wind shelters at FWP sites is common, as is this shelter design. The materials for at least one shelter are available and risk deterioration if not used in the near future. Harrison Lake FAS is very dry, thus other natural attempts at providing wind breaks and shade (planting Carragana) was relatively unsuccessful. A significant investment would be necessary to install irrigation lines necessary to aid growth in the day use areas where wind breaks and shade would be most beneficial. The proposed shade shelters will be economically feasible, available relatively soon (Fall, 1999), require little maintenance, and long lasting.

**Alternative 3. Construct More (four or five) Shelters**

This is also a viable option, though would have to be undertaken over a course of three or more years to overcome the costs associated with materials and installation. In this case, the two proposed shelters can be monitored for use, vandalism, desired performance of shade and wind break, and durability. If funding becomes available and the need arises based on public comment and observation, more shelters can be erected in the future.

**Alternative 4. Construct One Large Group Use Shelter**

The proposed location is a fishing access site, and FWP has kept these largely primitive in their development. Hamison Lake FAS does not tend to attract large group use, perhaps due to its remote location. Large group use shelters have inherent logistics such as reservation use associated with them, which FWP does not have the personnel or equipment to handle at this site. In addition, funding for this size of project is not available.

**3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:**

All impacts anticipated by the proposed action are minor and many can be easily mitigated. Areas disturbed due to construction will be graded and seeded. Construction materials (roofing and wood stain color) were considered to reduce the possibility of an aesthetically offensive structure in a natural area. Excavated soil will be used on site in areas already suffering from erosion, and to maintain roads. The establishment of noxious weeds will be monitored closely by the weed abatement program FWP currently employs. Construction will likely occur Monday through Friday, when visitation is lowest, and care will be taken to ensure public safety during construction.

**4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:**

This review has clearly demonstrated that the impacts associated with this project are not significant. The net result of the proposed work is a positive improvement to the human environment. Due to the insignificant negative impacts of this proposed action, an EA is the appropriate level of analysis and an EIS is not required.

**5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?**

The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on the EA, the proposed action, and alternatives:

- ▶ 4 legal notices, one notice published in each of these four newspapers: Whitehall Ledger, Montana Standard (Butte), Bozeman Chronicle, and the Helena Independent Record,
- ▶ 1 legal notice on Montana's electronic bulletin board,
- ▶ 1 statewide press release.

The opportunities for public input listed above are appropriate for the proposed project since little or no environmental impacts are identified and no substantial public controversy is expected.

**6. Duration of comment period if any:**

Thirty (30) days following the publication of the legal notice. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 pm, July 8, 1999 and can be mailed to the address below:

Harrison Lake FAS  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59718

**7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:**

Sue Dalbey  
Independent Contractor  
Dalbey Resources  
926 N. Lamborn St.  
Helena, MT 59601  
406-443-8058

Tom Greason  
Parks Maintenance Supervisor  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
406-994-6987

Jerry Walker  
State Parks Manager  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
406-994-3552

## **PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

The proposed shelters offer an inexpensive, long-lasting facility that the public has historically enjoyed at FWP sites across Montana. These shelters serve all age groups and site visitors of various recreational interests. The structures can easily be installed by the FWP Region 3 staff and therefore quality can be assured as well as choosing finishing products that will be aesthetically acceptable for the surrounding area.

No potentially significant impacts were identified in Part II of this EA and most of the minor impacts can be mitigated. All disturbed areas will be graded and seeded. No unique cultural geologic or physical features will be affected. No threatened or endangered species will be disturbed. Wetlands or prime farmland will not be affected. SHPO has given cultural clearance to proceed with the project. The small nature of the project results in no cumulative negative impacts on the site.

### **Attachments:**

1. HB495 Qualification Exemption Form
2. Site Location Map (USGS)
3. Site Plan
4. Clearance letter - State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
5. Construction Plans



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First main paragraph of text, containing several lines of faint, illegible content.

Second main paragraph of text, continuing the faint, illegible content.

Third main paragraph of text, continuing the faint, illegible content.

Fourth main paragraph of text, continuing the faint, illegible content.

Fifth main paragraph of text, continuing the faint, illegible content.

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# APPENDIX 1

## Harrison Lake FAS

### HB495 Exemption Form

Use this form when a park improvement or development project meets the criteria identified in 12.8.602 (1) ARM, but determined to NOT significantly change park features or use patterns.

State Park or Fishing Access Site Project Description: Install two picnic shelters at Harrison Lake Fishing Access Site 4 miles east of Harrison, Madison County.

The improvement or development project does not significantly change park or fishing access site features or use patterns. Provide the reason for exemption across from the appropriate item.

12.8.602 (ARM) (1)	Reason for Exemption
(a) Roads/trails	none
(b) Buildings	Shelters less than 100 square feet
(c) Excavation	Less than 20 cubic yards of excavation
(d) Parking	none
(e) Shoreline alterations	none
(f) Construction into water bodies	none
(g) Construction w/impacts on cultural artifacts	No impact to historical or cultural resources
(h) Underground utilities	none
(i) Campground expansion	none

Some activities considered that do not significantly impact site features or use patterns are: signing, fencing, barriers, road grading, garbage collection, routine latrine and facility maintenance.

Signature LSusan E. Dalbey Date 4/22/99

c: Helena HB495 Coordinator  
Regional Park Manager





NOTE:  
 REMOVE ALL OLD LATRINES

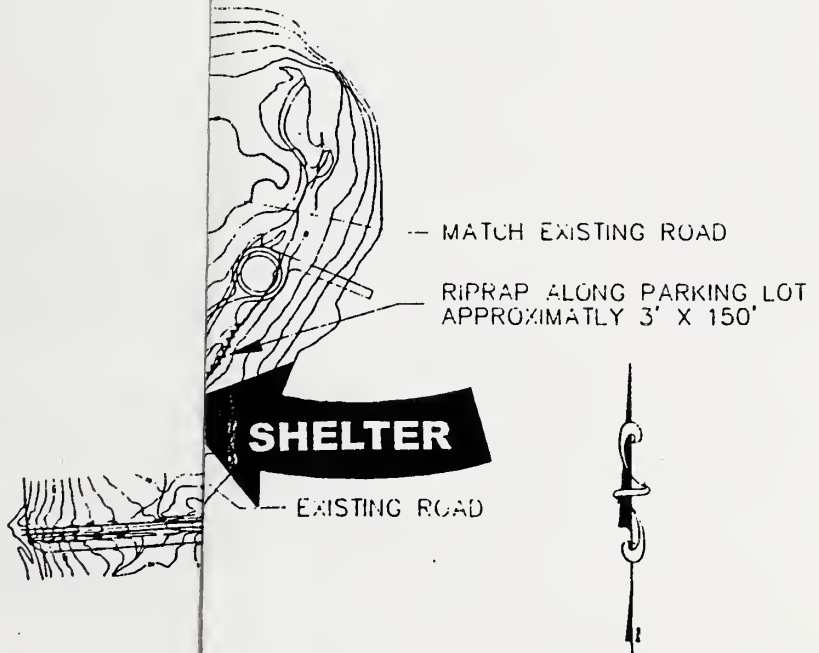
IG SPACES

PLIED NEW CONCRETE LATRINE  
 T X 20 FT GRAVEL PARKING SPACES

FT DIAMETER CULDESAC

RESHAPE ROAD TO A 20 FT WIDE SECTION  
 — INSTALL CONTRACTOR SUPPLIED  
 NEW CONCRETE LATRINE

CONSTRUCT 3EA 12FT X 20 FT GRAVEL PARKING SPACES



SCALE 1 INCH = 200 FEET  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 2 FEET

DRAWN BY  
 VALIE R. RICE

DATE  
 8-95

REVISED BY

DATE

APPROVED BY

DATE

FWP# 79-10820



SHEET: 1 of 1





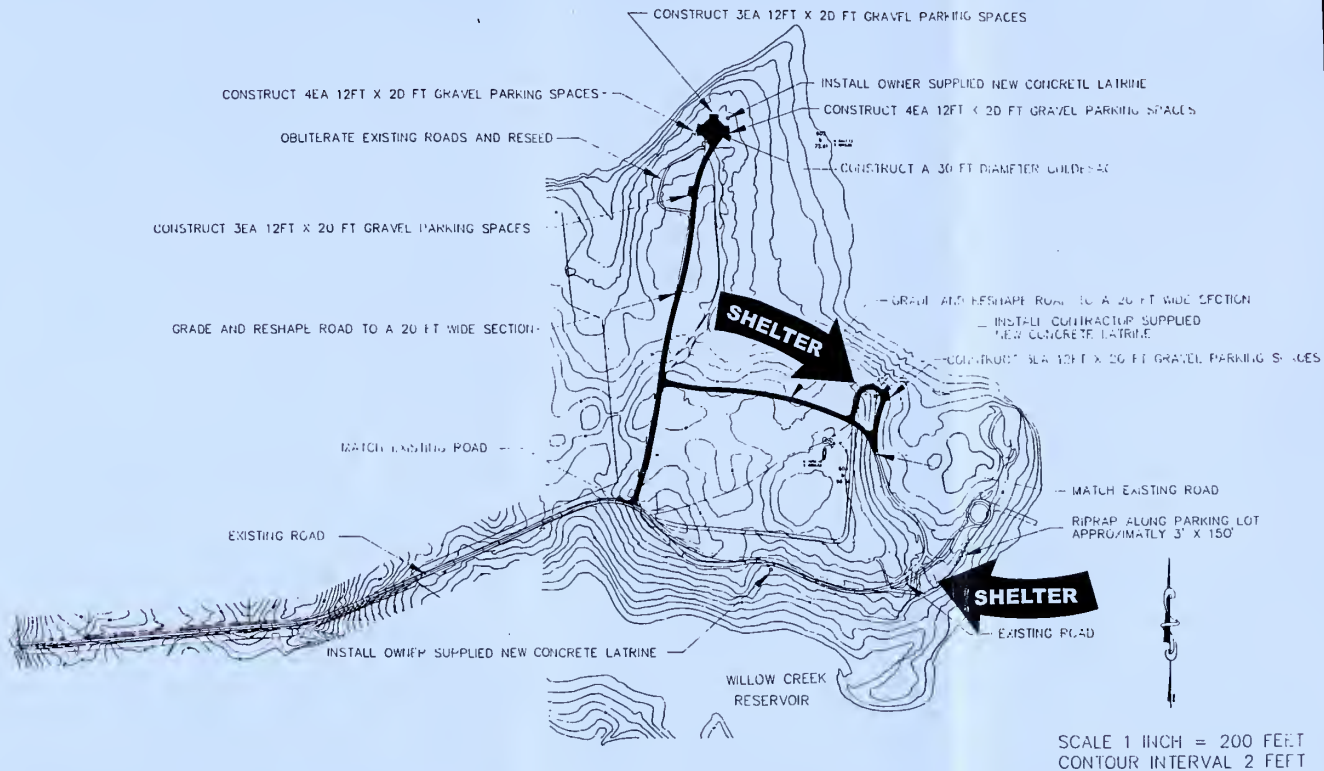
APPENDIX 3

Harrison Lake FAS Site Plan

Not to scale - reduced for duplication  
MFWP drawing, 1995

NOTE:

REMOVE ALL OLD LATRINES (4) FROM SITE



SCALE 1 INCH = 200 FEET  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 2 FEET

1 VALERIE RICE A 03  
NO. 02  
DATE

APPROVED BY  
DATE

APPROVED BY  
DATE

APPROVED BY  
DATE



Montana Fish  
& Wildlife Parks

HARRISON LAKE F.A.S.  
HARRISON MT.

FWP# 7910820



1 of 1  
SHEET





APPENDIX 4  
Harrison Lake FAS SHPO Clearance

File 430.2



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

**RECEIVED**

MAR 23 1999

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

99031807

8772

Design and Construction Bureau  
600 North Park Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

March 15, 1999

Paul Putz  
State Historic Preservation Office  
PO Box 201202  
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Harrison Lake FAS

Dear Paul:

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks is proposing to construct two picnic shelters at our Harrison Lake Fishing Access Site. The site was surveyed for cultural resources in 1979 by Archaeologist Stephen Aaberg, at which time he recorded three isolated lithic flakes. It was noted in the letter report of Aaberg Surveying from Dr. Davis, that most of the state property has been farmed.

Based on the previous survey, past farming and limited scope of work (ground disturbance for a 4" thick concrete pad), we believe that the proposed project will have a low likelihood of impacting cultural resources.

Please provide us with your comments regarding the proposed project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Valle  
Cultural Resource Coordinator  
Design and Construction Bureau

CONCUR  
MONTANA SHPO

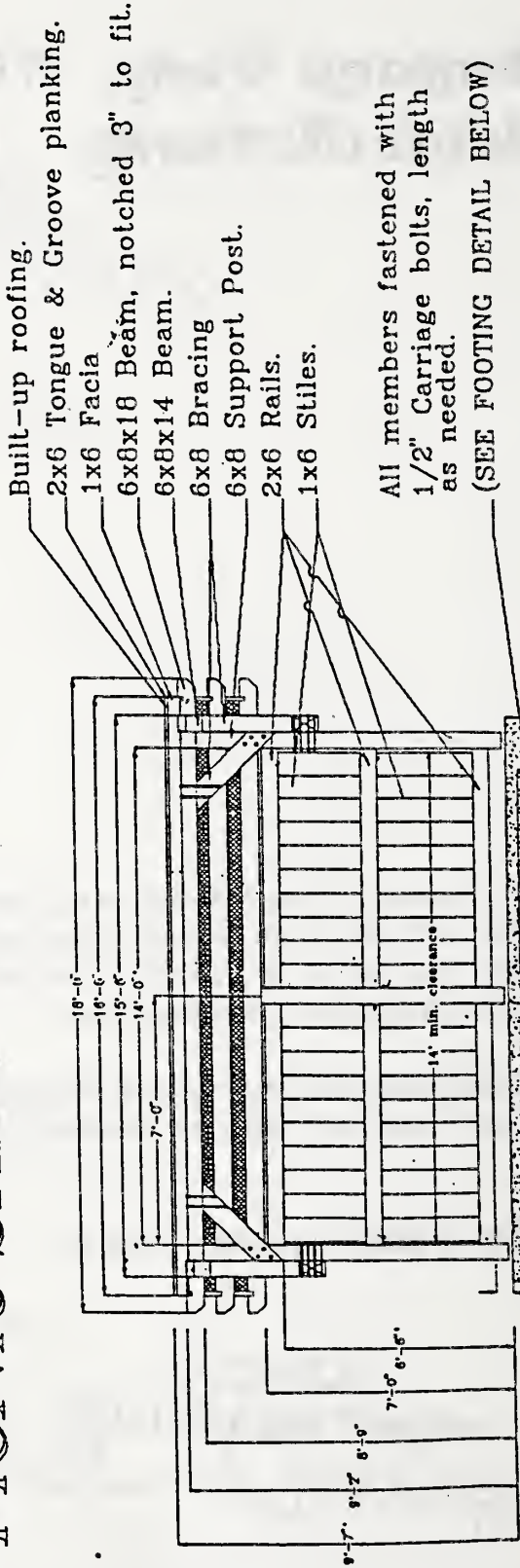
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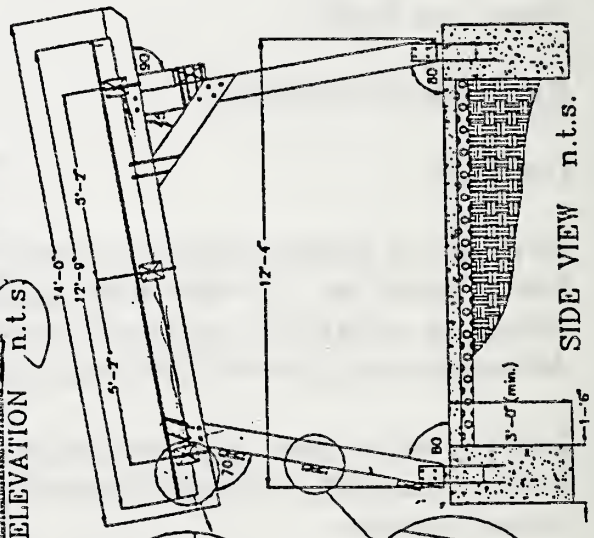
# APPENDIX 5

## Harrison Lake FAS Shelter Plans

# PICNIC SHELTER



All members fastened with 1/2" Carriage bolts, length as needed. (SEE FOOTING DETAIL BELOW)



- Built-up Roofing
- T & G Planking -
- Gravel Stop
- Flashing
- 1x6 Facia
- 2x2 Nailers
- 6x8 Beams

- ROOFING DETAIL n.t.s.
- 1x6 Stiles
- 2x6 Rails
- 6x8 Beams
- CK SCREEN DETAIL n.t.s.

**NOTES:**  
 All hardware too be 'Bright-coated'.  
 All wood to be rough-cut fir or pine.  
 All wood to be treated with semi-transparent stain.  
 Subgrade to be compacted to 95%.  
 Post bracket to be Simpson #CB-88 or approved equal. *C.P.P.*  
 2x6 Rails to be attached with Simpson-A35 Framing Clips.  
 4" of 5/8" - gravel base under concrete.  
 Subgrade to be compacted to 95%.

**DEPT. FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
 APRIL, 27 1993  
 SHELTER  
 M. HORN





